

Lenten Midweek Service 4

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Afton, Minnesota

March 7, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

Living Lent: “The Camel Reveals a Warning Savior”

A Lenten OpeningMelody: “O Sacred Head” (*Stand.*)

Remember, earth-born mortal, the dust from which you came,
And know that life’s last portal returns you to the same!
Let ashes tell the story, from dust its lesson learn:
Beyond life’s fleeting glory to dust you shall return!

Like flow’rs cast in the furnace, our lives are quickly spent.
To dust, O God, You turn us and call us to repent:
“Turn back, O mortals, grieving o’er your iniquity,
That, steadfast love receiving, you may My mercy see.”

For You, O gracious Father, want not the sinner’s death,
But that we, turning, rather may breathe the Spirit’s breath.
Let true repentance holy our daily lives employ,
That we may trust You solely and find in You our joy.

O God, you once did fashion our lives from earth’s frail dust.
Through Jesus’ Cross and Passion help us Your grace to trust.
For Christ was born of Mary our mortal dust to share,
Our sin and guilt to carry, our ransom to prepare.

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed season, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But My people do not know the requirements of the Lord.”

C Because of our sin, “the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.”

P Let us therefore confess our sins to God, sincerely repent of them and seek His mercy.

C Holy God, I have ignored the important things of Your Word. I have strained out gnats and swallowed camels. I am Your child in my baptism, but I have lived as though You and my neighbor did not matter. I have broken all Your laws in my heart, in my words, and in my actions. My sin is my fault and no one else's. God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

P “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.”

Accomplish Your salvation in us, most gracious Lord,
Through Jesus' Cross and Passion, according to Your Word.

Let us show forth Your favor while in the world we live,
And with Your saints forever eternal life receive.

P Lift up your hearts and rejoice! God has heard your cry for mercy and seen your sorrow for sin. His own word promises that “he who believes and is baptized shall be saved,” and that “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and in His stead, I therefore announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now, go, and bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

(Be seated.)

Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Was Frag Ich Nach Der Welt 67 67 66 66

(In this styling, phrases of the hymn interrupt the reading of the Psalm. The tune is introduced, then the first phrase is sung. The final chord of each phrase is held softly over the spoken words.)

I am the Lord your God.
I came with might to save you.

P But My people would not listen to Me; Israel would not obey Me.

I opened wide My hand,
Fine wheat and honey gave you.

P So I let you go your stubborn ways and do whatever you wanted.

If only you would turn
And give heed to My voice,

P I would quickly defeat your enemies and conquer all your foes.

I'd feed you once again,
And cause you to rejoice.

Holy GospelMatthew 23:23-24 (*Stand.*)

Pastor: ²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithful-ness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!”

Theme HymnMelody: Erhalt uns, Herr (*Be seated.*)

You called them “Blind,” O Christ, and “Fools,”
Those pious folk who kept the rules,
But did not keep the Law of Love
Commanded by our God above.

“You strain each gnat which may have flown
into your cup. But be this known:
You’d swallow down a camel, whole,
You hypocrites! You sightless fools!”

Grant us, O Christ, such open eyes
To see the Gospel's rich surprise:
To live in love, to love to view
The Word of God made flesh in You.

Homily: The Camel Reveals a Warning Savior

Offering Prayer.....Melody: Dunstan (*Stand.*)

Create in me a heart that’s pure. Renew my spirit, steadfast, sure.

Offering

(Note to our visitors: You are our guests this evening! Please do not feel the need to make a contribution to our Offering. We would ask all visitors and members to sign the Register Pad as the Offering is being collected. Also, Prayer Cards are available in the pew racks for special intercessions during the time of congregational prayer.)

Offering Prayer Melody: Dunstan (*Stand.*)

Create in me a heart that's pure. Renew my spirit, steadfast, sure.
Deliver me from sin's allure. Accept the gifts I bring.

Forgive me all my shameful wrong. Restore to me salvation's song,
That I may join the grateful throng. Accept the gifts I bring.

Then I shall see Christ's glorious face, alive forever by His grace,
Dwelling in that most holy place. Accept the gifts I bring.

Prayer of God's People

Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

P Ask the animals, and they will teach you. Let every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them sing,

C Which of these does not know that the Lord has done this?

P Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

C Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing VerseMelody: Erhalt uns, Herr

The animals the story tell. Teach us, O Lord, to learn it well,
And lead us, as our days are spent, To live in love while living Lent.

(Be seated.)